

# Oregon State Police – Talking Points for SafeOregon Launch

---

## What is SafeOregon?

A statewide resource designed to accept confidential or anonymous reports concerning student safety through a phone call, text message, mobile application or the internet by students and other members of the public. The school safety tip line program is called SafeOregon. It became Law through HB 4075 (2016), as a result of recommendations from the Oregon Task Force on School Safety.

## What is the Oregon Task Force on School Safety?

During the 2014 session, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 4087, to establish a Task Force on School Safety. The bill, creating a working group to examine steps to improve safety and security at schools across the state. As specified in HB 4087, the task force is made up of representatives from the legislature, the governor's office, as well as the education and public safety communities. A complete roster of the task force members appears at the left side of this page. For more information on the task force visit the Oregon State Police website at [www.oregon.gov/osp](http://www.oregon.gov/osp)

## Who can use SafeOregon?

Any Oregon public schools grade PK-12. We expect to make these resources available to the same grades in private schools soon. We may be able to expand to community colleges and universities after signing-up all public schools. However, we also know adults have access to, and a better understanding of, how to report such information through their local law enforcement or reporting structures within schools they attend.

## How does SafeOregon work?

Trained staff are available 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year to review, analyze and route tips for the most appropriate follow up and urgency. This may be to school officials, law enforcement, community mental health programs or other appropriate local or state agencies. Tip Line staff make sure follow-up is noted and recorded.

## Who are these staff?

Oregon State Police has contracted with a vendor, Sprigeo ([sprigeo.com](http://sprigeo.com)) with experience in school safety tip line services. They provide the applications, marketing materials, best practices and staff to review, analyze and route tips. Oregon State Police provides a program analyst and temporarily a support staff and project manager.

## How much is the contract?

The contract covers 5 years (started in September, 2016) for a total not to exceed cost of \$1,078,855.00 for all 570,000+ public school children.

## Will the program go away after 5 years?

No. The program will continue to improve and we anticipate refreshing the services when we go out for bid in 5 years.

## **Is there a cost to use SafeOregon for schools?**

There is no cost.

## **What does it mean reporters can be confidential or anonymous?**

The Legislation was clear to provide a way for students to offer information that protects their identity or allows them to report information confidentially allowing them a safe way to share information. Anyone can report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees, or schools.

Sometimes it's hard to know who to tell or how to talk through a situation. SafeOregon can help. By using the tip line responsibility, students can play a valuable role in preventing violence, bullying, harassment, or concerns of others or self-harm.

Students can fear judgment from peers, teachers, and parents. They don't always know if what is happening to them is normal or not.

## **Communication with Adults**

This tip line in no way replaces the face to face open communication and relationships built at our schools. But, it does give a voice to those students who don't feel comfortable going to an adult or are anxious or afraid.

It also helps students after school hours. They may see something on social media or can't get ahold of a teacher when something may be going on that they are worried about. It helps meet kids closer to where they are today, on their phones and the internet with a bridge to share serious issues or concerns.

## **What kinds of tips are expected?**

Anything that makes a student feel unsafe or if a student knows someone who feels unsafe. Here are a few examples: safety threats, violence, threats of violence, fights, drugs, alcohol, weapons, bullying or friends that talk about hurting themselves, harassment, intimidation, cyber bullying, or self-harm.

## **Will you share information on how the tip line is going?**

Yes, the Oregon State Police expects to share information on the types of tips, frequency and experience of using the system as students begin to use the tools and schools sign-up for the services.

## **Other**

It is a violation of Oregon law to misuse the tip line. ORS 165.570.

## **Does this replace 9-1-1?**

No. Emergency situations should always go to 9-1-1. This tip line is not for immediate emergency response. If anyone needs immediate assistance, they should dial 9-1-1.